



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Black Canyon National Recreation Trail

Phoenix District Office • Hassayampa Field Office



The 80-mile Black Canyon Trail is a non-motorized trail that provides hikers, horseback riders, and mountain bikers an opportunity for long-range backcountry exploration. The trail meanders through a Sonoran Desert landscape, including saguaro forests and rugged canyons. It follows a route used for centuries by Native Americans, stagecoach travelers and livestock drivers. Expect grade and elevation changes in a harsh desert climate. The best time of year to use the trail is from November through April.

General Location

The trail is 40 miles north of Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. The northern end is 40 miles east of Prescott.

Permits, Fees, Limitations

There are no use fees. Commercial, competitive, or large group events may require a special recreation permit.

Segments of the trail are not recommended for novice horseback riders. Some terrain is challenging for mountain bikers.

Maps

See trailhead map on the back of this handout. Detailed U.S. Geological Survey maps for New River, Black Canyon City, Bumble Bee, and Cleator include sections of the trail.

Contact us

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www.blm.gov/visit/black-canyon-national-recreation-trail

Trailheads

Here are ways to get to the Black Canyon Trail from Interstate 17:

- **Emery Henderson Trailhead:** Take exit 232 at New River. Go west about two miles on New River Road and turn right to reach the trailhead.
- **Table Mesa Trailhead:** Take exit 236 for Table Mesa Road. Go west on Table Mesa Road for about 3 miles to reach the trailhead.
- **Black Canyon Trailhead:** Take exit 242 at Black Canyon City. Go west. Turn right at the stop sign and then take a quick left onto Warner Road. Follow the road to the white tank which sits near the trailhead.
- **Gloriana Trailhead:** Take exit 248 to Bumble Bee and Crown King. Proceed about a half-mile to the trailhead on the left. The dirt parking area accommodates five to eight vehicles.
- **Big Bug Trailhead:** Take exit 262 toward Prescott on State Route 69. Proceed 4.2 miles and turn into the entrance on the south side of the highway. The trailhead will be just beyond mile marker 266. You can reach the 8-mile Copper Mountain Loop from this trailhead.

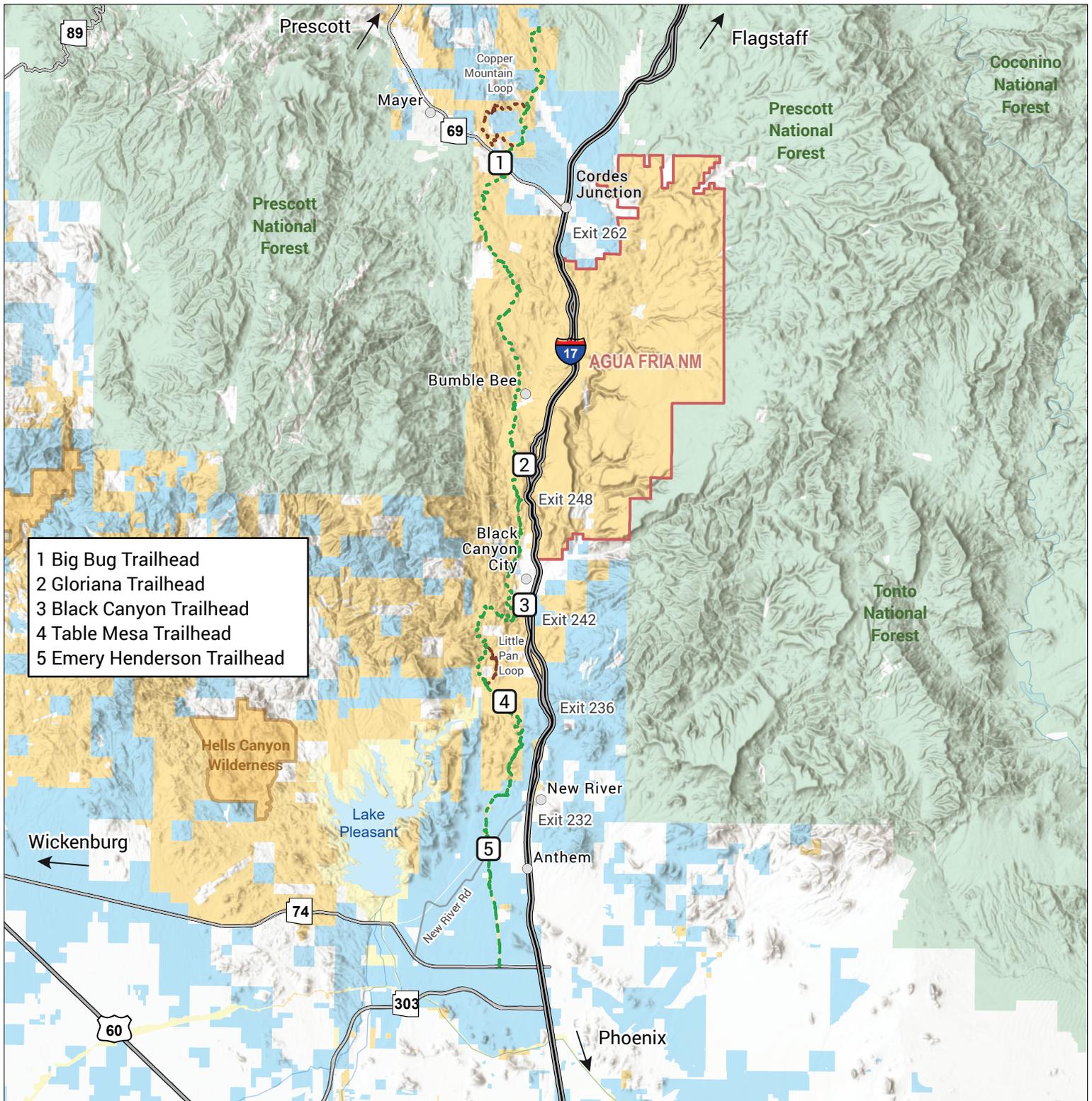


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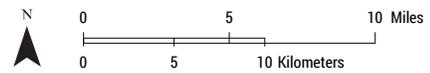
2/25/2026



- 1 Big Bug Trailhead
- 2 Gloriana Trailhead
- 3 Black Canyon Trailhead
- 4 Table Mesa Trailhead
- 5 Emery Henderson Trailhead

- Black Canyon Trailheads
- National Recreation Trail
- National Monument
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- BLM Wilderness Area
- USDA Forest Service
- Bureau of Reclamation
- State Land

Coordinate System: NAD 1983
UTM Zone 12N
Scale: 1:415,000 at 8.5x11
page output



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